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THE HOUSE CONTRACT

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, 2 years ago, when President Clinton marked his 100th day in office, I said the occasion "should not be regarded as a magical threshold for defining achievement or failure."

The same thought applies now. This is a logical time to take stock, but the real measure of success can't be taken for many months—not until the rest of the Democratic process, namely the Senate and the President, bring their perspectives to bear.

I give the new House leadership credit for lots of energy and activity in the flush of electoral victory, but this should not be mistaken for definitive accomplishment.

The fact is the Contract With America is a contract made by Republican candidates for the House of Representatives. It is not a contract made by the Senate and certainly not one made by Senate Democrats nor by the President of the United States.

Since the contract seems to be the product of pollsters and campaign consultants, it is not surprising that nearly everyone can agree with at least several of its objectives. But when we look at the fine print of some of them and when we get down to the hard job of deciding on the means for achieving those objectives, there are bound to be vast philosophical disagreements.

I certainly agree with the objectives of fiscal responsibility, welfare reform, continued action on crime control, job creation, fairness for senior citizens, and promotion of family values.

And I even agree with some of the means proposed, such as unfunded mandate reform and capital gains tax relief to create jobs, child support enforcement to advance family values and an increase in the Social Security earnings limit for the benefit of senior citizens.

But I find myself in profound disagreement with several of the major objectives as well as the means to implement them. These include:

The balanced budget amendment, which I opposed because it would have cut too much too soon.

The line-item veto, which I opposed because it yields too much congressional power to the President and because it is administratively unwieldy.

Term limitations.

Increased defense spending.

Reinstatement of the death penalty and cuts in spending on social programs (such as midnight basketball) to control crime.

Tax cuts without deficit reduction.

Welfare reforms without compassion.

Reduced support for the United Nations.

Any reduction in support for education or elimination of support for the arts and humanities.

So, Mr. President, it is far too early to tally up score cards on a contract made by one party in one House of the legislative branch. Many of us simply don't subscribe to substantial parts of it and don't believe that implementation of it in toto would be good for the country.

The streamroller needs to be slowed down and the contract needs to be pruned, modified, and in some cases excised. This is the role that the Senate is so admirably equipped to do. And only when it has done so will the revised elements of the contract be candidates for Presidential consideration. Then and only then, when the executive branch has concurred, can the final score be tallied.

As I said 2 years ago, the true measure of success should be taken over the extended timeframe of this whole process, without drawing hasty conclusions here and now. One hundred days is only the first milestone of a long journey.

CONGRATULATING THE UCONN HUSKIES ON THEIR NCAA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORY

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, on Sunday, April 2, the University of Connecticut Huskies made history by becoming the second women's basketball team ever to finish an NCAA season undefeated and win a national championship. The Huskies' dramatic 70-64 come-from-behind defeat of the Tennessee Volunteers brought their final season record to 35-0, the best finish by any team—men's or women's—in the history of NCAA basketball.

On behalf of the citizens of Connecticut, I rise to congratulate and thank this remarkable group of young women.

Those who watched the game on Sunday afternoon may recall that as the Huskies celebrated their victory, the UConn pep band played Aretha Franklin's hit song, "Respect." Mr. President, there simply could not have been a more appropriate accompaniment for this long-awaited celebration. Perhaps as much as any sports team in recent memory, the UConn women's basketball team has generated the respect and admiration of all who have had the privilege of watching them play. In so doing, they have reminded the citizens of Connecticut, as well as people throughout the country, what college athletics is all about.

The Huskies' list of accomplishments on the court is nothing short of amazing. On their way to the NCAA title, they broke 14 NCAA records, including most victories, longest winning streak, most points, most points in a game and largest margin of victory. In addition, four Connecticut players—Rebecca Lobo, Jen Rizzotti, Kara Walters and Jamelle Elliott—were named to the all-tournament team. That is the first time in history that four players from the same team have received this honor.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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